

## **King County Mobility Coalition**

### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

#### In attendance:

*Members/Alternates:* Hamdi Abdulle, Gaby Bell, Alaric Bien, Amy Biggs, Gil Cerise, Dorene Cornwell, Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Leslie Miller, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Jenn Ramirez Robson, Irene Stewart, Suni Tolton, David Waggoner, Kari Ware, Ryan Warner, Caitlin Wasley, Cindy Zwart,

*Collaborators:* Susan Carter, George Coffee, Jate Ekmahasawasdi, Carolyn Foster, Doug Gellert, Jeanne Grote, Cindi Laws, Mark Manuel, Cassie Marshall, Salah Mohamed, Amin Shifow, Jacqueline Sorgen

*Staff:* Jon Morrison Winters

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Alex O'Reilly, Coalition Co-chair, opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

#### *New Introductions:*

- Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke has replaced Erica Horn as the Executive Director of Hero House.
- Cindi Laws is from the Wheelchair Accessible Taxicab Association of Seattle-King County.
- Susan Carter is from Hopelink. Susan is a Business Functional Analyst for the Special Needs Transportation Brokerage.
- George Coffee is Mobility Manager for the VA Puget Sound Health System.
- Mark Manuel is the Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator for the City of Bellevue.
- Leslie Miller is a Human Service Coordinator at the City of Kirkland and a member of the King County Alliance for Human Services.
- Amin Shifow is with Puget Sound Dispatch/Yellow Cab.
- Salah Mohamed is with Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT).

#### Consent Calendar

*May 2015 Meeting Minutes:* The Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

*New Members and Alternates:* the Coalition confirmed the appointment of the following members and alternates:

- Leslie Miller as member representing the King County Alliance of Human Services.
- Priscilla Vargas as the King County Metro representative. This seat became vacant recently as Melony Joyce has been reassigned to other tasks and is no longer able to participate on the Coalition.
- Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke as Mental Health Services Representative.
- Rand Stamm to replace Ella Campbell as Sound Transit Alternate. Ella has retired.
- Tom Hanson to fill the vacant alternate seat for WSDOT.

#### Briefing: Update on Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Initiative and ADA Compliance

Alex introduced Mark Manuel from the City of Bellevue. Mark shared a presentation about the city's new Diversity and ADA Compliance Initiative, "The Diversity Advantage." The presentation included an overview of the changing demographics of Bellevue and the formation of the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Plan from initial discussion in 2011 to the formation of the Diversity Advantage Team in May 2015. The plan's main focus is to implement cultural competency education throughout all sectors of Bellevue, specifically including human services, public safety, and education while emphasizing the roles that economic development and civic engagement play in fostering a diverse community.

Gaby Bell asked Mark about the possibility of a Hyde Shuttle coming to Bellevue. Mark stated that he could inquire about that. Alex noted that this could be a good time to revisit the idea of the EZ Rider Shuttle, which was a demand-response service that operated briefly from 2010 to 2011. Alex also noted that the City of Redmond is planning a circulator service. Alaric Bien stated that funds have been allocated for a circulator pilot project, and promised to report back with additional details.

Alex asked about the process for providing input on the Diversity and ADA Compliance Initiative. Mark responded that the City is very interested in receiving feedback. They want to partner and they want to be held accountable.

Irene Stewart suggested that when the plan addresses affordable housing, the words "accessible" and "with services" should be added.

Ref Lindmark commented that King County Metro was the first agency to have a 100% accessible bus fleet and noted the importance of partnering with local jurisdictions on pedestrian accessibility in order to improve access to transit.

The Coalition thanked Mark for his presentation.

#### Briefing: Legislative Update/State Transportation Package

Ref introduced Ryan Warner from the Washington State Department of Transportation. Ryan presented a synopsis of the legislative changes to transportation funding for the Puget Sound

region and its implications for special needs and accessible transportation projects. Ryan noted that funding available for Special Needs Transportation has increased.

The State of Washington's Special Needs Transportation funding is divided into two "pots." There is Paratransit formula funding and funding for non-profits that is combined with other funds in the consolidated grant program. The details of the process for distributing additional funds are still being determined. An additional "pot" of funds that may be available for Special Needs Transportation projects in the Puget Sound Region was created by Senate Bill 1842, which called for Regional Coordination Grants for agencies in King, Pierce, and/or Snohomish Counties.

Ryan also discussed other Public Transportation funds, including the Regional Mobility Program. The list of Public Transportation Capital investments amounts to \$13 million over 16 years.

Community Transit and Sound Transit also received additional authority from the legislature to increase taxes within their taxing districts with the approval of district voters.

Jon Morrison Winters asked about the timeframe for more information about additional funds coming to our region. Ryan stated that he would keep the Coalition informed as the process moves forward.

There was some discussion about the "poison pill" that was included in the legislation. Dorene Cornwell pointed to the advocacy efforts among various stakeholders as instrumental in maintaining and increasing funding for public transit and special needs transportation.

The Coalition thanked Ryan for his briefing.

#### PSRC Update: Special Needs Transportation Committee Changes

Gil Cerise provided an update from PSRC's Special Needs Transportation Committee. He announced that there are new seats on the Committee that are open that the King County Mobility Coalition will be responsible for filling. Specifically, KCMC will be responsible for appointing a representative of people with disabilities. There is also an open seat to represent Tribes that will be appointed by the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization. Coalition members expressed interest in representation from the veteran community and immigrant and refugee communities on the committee. Gil noted that the committee has general seats available for anyone who wants to give input on PSRC's planning process and all are welcome to join meetings. If anyone would like to be on the listserv for announcement about the Special Needs Transportation Committee they can email Gil. The Coalition will appoint a member at our next meeting in November.

The Coalition thanked Gil for the update.

#### Discussion/Decision: King County Mobility Coalition 5-Year Action Plan

Jon Morrison Winters, the Coalition's Mobility Manager, reviewed our work to date on our 5-Year Action Plan, which contains seven initiatives and several strategies.

The first initiative, Access to Healthcare, was discussed by Gaby Bell. This initiative includes various projects such as the Mobility Innovations to Reduce Hospital Readmissions Project, creating localized travel tools, and researching new opportunities under the Affordable Care Act. She also noted that accessible taxi services are a need. The second initiative, Veterans Transportation, was announced by Cassie Marshall from Hopelink. This initiative will include coordinating with the King County Veterans Consortium and other agencies invested in Veterans mobility, and leveraging resources for special projects.

The other initiatives in the work plan include initiatives on Emergency Management Coordination, Education and Outreach, Suburban and Rural Access, Livable Communities, and Access to Work and School.

After reviewing the Action Plan, the Coalition adopted it as drafted, with the recognition that it is a "living document."

#### Quick Briefings:

##### *King County Metro Update:*

Ref announced that some retired vans from their vanpool services have been donated to non-profits throughout King County. If anyone is interested in applying to receive a van in future rounds of the van donation program, they should contact their County Councilmember.

The Metro service changes in September and March will be significant. September will see the largest service increase ever, primarily due to the City of Seattle Proposition 1 funding, as well as rising sales tax revenue. Some routes that use the transit tunnel in downtown Seattle will be rerouted permanently above ground in order to make way for new LINK Light Rail trains.

Ref also provided updates on the ORCA LIFT program and the Alternative Services program. The LIFT team attended over 40 outreach events in July. Metro is doing Alternative Services product development. Among the various alternative services projects is one on Mercer Island.

##### *Mobility Innovations to Reduce Hospital Readmissions Project:*

Doug Gellert from Hopelink gave a synopsis of the Mobility Innovations to Reduce Hospital Readmissions Project, which is funded by a FTA National Center for Mobility Management

grant. The project involves creating a business plan to reduce hospital readmissions for low-income seniors in south King County, using a brainstorming process called design thinking.

*Coalition Subcommittees/Subregional Coalitions & Mobility Manager Update:*

Jon provided updates on the subregional coalitions and subcommittees. Our new grant biennium has begun, and we are looking to fill a staffing vacancy to staff the subregional coalitions, as well as the Vulnerable Populations Transportation/Emergency Management Coordination Workgroup. Jon hopes to be able to make a staffing announcement soon. The Seattle Design Festival is September 12<sup>th</sup>, and Feet First will be hosting a “Rolling Walkshop” about accessible pathways in Seattle at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM. The Washington State Public Transportation Conference in Vancouver, WA is August 23 – 26<sup>th</sup>. Jon will be facilitating a panel on mobility management at the conference.

*Other Updates:*

Cindi Laws noted the Anniversary of the ADA.

Caitlin Wasley announced the City of Kent’s new transportation effort called “Think Outside the Bus” and encouraged Coalition members to visit the website.

Dorene noted the importance of the Seattle waterfront redesign and requested a future briefing on this topic.

Irene Stewart announced that the Northwest Universal Design Council is hosting Karen Brightmeyer of the US Access Board on Wednesday, October 7 at noon at Seattle City Hall.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, November 17, 2015** from 9:30 – 11:30 AM at **Seattle Goodwill Industries**, 700 Dearborn Pl S, Seattle, WA 98144.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:  
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>